

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES NEWS RELEASE



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2016 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release # 3 Yukon River Subsistence Fishing Update Districts Affected: Yukon Area

Based on the climate model by NOAA and AOOS, the 2016 Chinook salmon run on the Yukon River is anticipated to be early. The earliest run timing scenario predicts increasing numbers of Chinook salmon entering the lower Yukon River during the last week of May with a significant jump in abundance around the end of the first week of June though current winds and weather may affect run timing. The first subsistence caught summer chum salmon was reported on May 17. There have been no reports of Chinook salmon caught in subsistence fisheries. The department would like to extend gratitude to the subsistence fishermen who have shared harvest information. These reports are instrumental in directing management actions.

Current Management

Coastal District, District 1 (including the Black River), District 2, and District 3 (including the Innoko River):

Subsistence fishing is currently open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh size gillnets. Fishermen should be prepared for management actions that will close subsistence salmon fishing with gillnets when Chinook salmon migrate into their district.

Fishermen are reminded that they may use gillnets smaller than 7.5-inch mesh. Additionally, Chinook salmon caught in gillnet gear may be retained for subsistence use.

District 4 (including the Koyukuk River) and Subdistricts 5-A, 5-B, and 5-C:

Subsistence fishing is open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh size gillnets and fish wheels. Fishermen should be prepared for management actions that will close subsistence salmon fishing with gillnets when Chinook salmon migrate into their district.

Subdistrict 5-D:

Subsistence fishing is open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh size gillnets and fish wheels. Fishermen should anticipate fishing restrictions when Chinook salmon start moving into Subdistrict 5-D.

District 6:

Subsistence fishing is open for two 42-hour fishing periods per week from 6:00 p.m. Mondays until 12:00 noon Wednesdays and from 6:00 p.m. Fridays until 12:00 noon Sundays. Fishermen may use fish wheels or 7.5-inch or smaller mesh size gillnets. Fishermen should anticipate fishing restrictions when Chinook salmon start moving into the Tanana River.

Old Minto Area:

Subsistence fishing is open five days per week from 6:00 p.m. Fridays until 6:00 p.m. Wednesdays. Fishermen may use fish wheels or 7.5-inch or smaller mesh size gillnets. Fishermen should anticipate fishing restrictions when Chinook salmon start moving into the Old Minto area.

Upper Tanana Area (the Tanana River from the confluence with the mouth of Volkmar River on the north bank and the mouth of the Johnson River on the south bank upstream to the Tanana River headwaters, including the communities of Healy Lake, Dot Lake, Tanacross, Northway, and the Tok area):

Subsistence fishing is open 24 hours a day, seven days per week. Fishermen may use fish wheels or gillnets with a mesh size of 7.5 inches or less.

For additional information:

Subsistence fishing schedule: 1-866-479-7387 (toll free outside of Fairbanks); in Fairbanks, call 907-459-7387.

ADF&G: Holly Carroll, Anchorage 907-267-2324. The Emmonak ADF&G office number is 907-949-1320. The Emmonak office is expected to open June 1.

USFWS: Fred Bue, Fairbanks 907-455-1849 or 1-800-267-3997.

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